

**EXTRACT**

OF A

**LETTER FROM FRANCIS ADAMS,**

*Commercial Agent of the United States, at Matanzas,*

TO

**The Secretary of State,**

Dated December 30, 1824.

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**FEBRUARY 11, 1825.**

Read, and referred to the committee of the whole House, to which is committed the Bill, entitled "A Bill providing additional means for the suppression of piracy."

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**WASHINGTON:**

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**1825.**

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*Extract of a Letter from Francis Adams, Commercial Agent of the United States, at Matanzas, to Mr. Adams, dated 30th December, 1824.*

“Those piratical bands who have become the disgrace and scourge of the Island, are, for the present, restrained by the number and vigilance of the forces sent by the United States and Great Britain for their suppression, but that they are only *restrained* and not *extirpated*, is certain, from the fact, that few or none have been captured, and that depredations have recently been committed on land, by bodies of fifteen to twenty persons, by which the foreign settlers on the coast have been the sufferers. Their migratory course of life, and the various points of the coast which afford fine harbors, and are, at the same time, distant from any military post, or even inhabited district, renders their extirpation by the authorities of the Island, difficult, if not impossible; and the arming of merchant vessels to resist the attacks of small boats, and the constant presence of a naval force sufficient to prevent the egress of larger vessels, appears to be the only means of securing our trade from their depredations, until the hopelessness of their employment, or the revival of Spanish commerce, shall have induced an abandonment of their desperate course of life.”

